(c) The steps taken to restore the wetland character of the Park are as given below:

(i) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has been providing financial & technical assistance to the State Government for the better management of Keoladeo National Park. An amount of Rs. 26.3472 lakhs has been released during the current financial year under the centrally Sponsored Scheme "Assistance to Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries".

(ii) An UNESCO funded project has been launched for better management of Keoladeo National Park.

(iii) The State Government has completed the Chiksana Canal project, which would draw 50-60 Mcft. flood water to Keoladeo National Park during the monsoon period.

(iv) Two more projects, *viz,* Govardhan Drain project and Dholpur-Bharatpur Chambal drinking water project have also been prepared by the State Government to mitigate the water scarcity in Keoladeo National Park.

(v) To address the emergency situation, four new deep bore wells and two new shallow bore wells have been dug inside the Park.

Increase in deforestation

1446. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steep increase in deforestation in the country;

(b) if so, the average percentage of deforestation taken place for the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the present total area of forest, State-wise;

(d) the steps taken by Government to protect forest and fiscal allocation for this purpose during the last and current year; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. There is no increase in the deforestation in the country. An assessment of the forest cover in the country is made by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun on biennial basis. The forest cover in the country as per 2001, 2003 and 2005 assessment is given below:

Assessment Year	2001	2003	2005
Forest Cover (in km^2)	653,898	677,816	677,088

It can be seen that the forest cover in the country has increase by 23,918 km^2 between 2001 and 2003 assessments, and decreased marginally by 728 km^2 between 2003 and 2005 assessments.

(b) State-wise extent of deforestation *perse* has not been assessed by FSI. However, changes in forest cover for each state and UT of the country during 2003 to 2005 are given below:

Area in Km^2

State/UTs	Forest Cover (2003)	Forest Cover (2005)	Change
Andhra Pradesh	44,412	44,372	-40
Arunachal Pradesh	67,692	67,777	85
Assam	27,735	27,645	-90
Bihar	5,573	5,579	6
Chhattisgarh	55,992	55,863	-129
Delhi	174	176	2
Goa	2,164	2,164	0
Gujarat	14,814	14,715	-99
Haryana	1,576	1,587	11
Himachal Pradesh	14,359	14,369	10
Jammu & Kashmir	21.273	21,273	0
Jharkhand	22,569	22,591	22
Karnataka	35,246	35,251	5
Kerala	15,595	15,595	0
Madhya Pradesh	76,145	76,013	-132
Maharashtra	47,514	47,476	-38
Manipur	17,259	17,086	-173
Meghalaya	16,925	16,988	63
Mizoram	18,583	18,684	101
Nagaland	14,015	13,719	-296
Orissa	48,353	48,374	21
Punjab	1,545	1,558	13
Rajasthan	15,821	15,850	29
Sikkim	3,262	3,262	0
Tamil Nadu	23,003	23,044	41
Tripura	8,123	8,155	32
Uttar Pradesh	14,127	14,127	0
Uttarakhand	24,460	24,442	-18
West Bengal	12,389	12,413	24
Andaman & Nicobar	6,807	6,629	-178
Chandigarh	15	15	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	221	221	0
Daman & Diu	8	8	0
Lakshadweep	25	25	0
•• **TOTAL**			
Pondicherry	42	42	0 -
TOTAL	677,816	677,088	728

(c) The present total area of forest. State-wise, is given below:

State/UTs	Geographic Area	Forest Area*	Forest Cover**
1	2	3	4 44,372
Andhra Pradesh	275,069	63,821	
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	51,540	67,777
Assam	78,438	26,832	27,645
Bihar	94,163	6473	5,579
Chhattisgarh	135,191	59,772	55,863
Delhi	1,483	1,224	176
Goa	3,702	18,962	2,164
Gujarat	196,022	1,559	14,71-5
Haryana	44,212	37,033	1,587
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	20,230	14,369
Jammu & Kashmir	222,236	23,605	21,273
jharkhand	79,714	38,284	22,591
Karnataka	191,791	11,265	35,251
Kerala	38,863	94,689	15,595
Madhya Pradesh	308,245	61,939	76,013
Maharashtra	307,713	17,418	47,476
Manipur	22,327	9,496	17,086
Meghalaya,	22,429	16,717	16,988
Mizoram	21,081	9,222	18,684
Nagaland	16,579	58,136	13,719
Qrissa	155,707	3,084	48,374
Punjab	50,362	32,488	1,558
Rajasthan	342,239	5,841	15,850
Sikkim	7,096	22,877	3,262
Tamil Nadu	130,058	6,294	23,044
Tripura	10,486	16,796	8,155
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	34,651	14,127
Uttarakhand	53,483	11,879	24,442
West Bengal	88,752	7,171	12,413
Andaman & Nicobar	8,249	33	6,629
Chandigarh	114	204	15
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	6	221

1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	112	85	8
Lakshadweep	32	-	25
Pondicherry	480	-	42
TOTAL	3,287,263	769,626	677,088

* 'Forest Area' refers to the area recorded as a forest in the Government records. It is also referred to as 'recorded forest area'.

** 'Forest Cover' refers to all lands, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such lands may not necessarily be a recorded forest area.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has taken following steps to maintain forest cover:

.(i) Under National Afforestation Plan (NAP) Scheme Rs. 1180.72 crores were released to support 729 Forest Development Agencies (FDA) projects through 24,215 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) for treating a total project area of 9.36 lakh ha.

(ii) A restructured scheme for Grants-in-Aid for Greening India was launched in 2005-06 to promote production and use of quality planting material in tree planning.

(iii) As a follow-up of the Mid-Term Appraisal of 10th Five Year Plan, a new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institution for free planning on non-forest lands is mooted.

(iv) Establishment of two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) battalions for eco-restoration of degraded areas was mooted by the Ministry, in addtion to supporting the existing four ETF battalions.

(v) States have been advised to constitute State-level coordination committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretaries for eliciting cooperation of all land-owning Departments for contributing towards increase in forest and tree cover.

(vi) The Ministry has mooted a Multi-Stake Holder Partnership (MSP) framework for forestation.

(vii) Guidelines have been issued by Government of India on 15-12-2004 to the States for rationalization of regulatory provision about felling and transport of trees grown on private lands.

(viii) State Government and Union Territories Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create awareness about tree planting.

Fiscal allocation during the last and current year.

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the Scheme	Nature of Scheme	2006-07		2007-08	
		Outlay	RE	Outlay	RE
Forestry and Wildlife					
Indian Council for Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE)	CS	56.00	60.03	59.00	62.00
Grant-in-Aid to Indian Plywood Industries Research and Institute (1PIRTI)	CS	3.05	4.25	4.00	5.00
Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)	CS	5.00	6.77	6.00	6.90
Training to IFS Officers	CS	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA)	CS	4.75	4.82	4.75	4.75
Directorate of Forestry Education (DFE)	CS	3.65	3.86	3.45	4.14
Gregarious flowering of Muli (Melocanna \ Bambcos		25.00	25.00	27.00	27.00
Forest Survey of India (FSI)	CS	5.00	5.50	5.00	6.17
Integrated Forest Protection Scheme	CSS	71.65	49.37	71.65	71.65
Strengthening of Forestry Divisions	CS	5.50	7.40	7.16	7.81
Afforestation through PRIs (NCMP-related scheme		0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Strengthening of Wildlife Divisions and outside Prelected Areas	CS	3.00	2.60	6.00	4.00
Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	CSS	53.50	56.00	62.00	62.00
Wildlife Institute of India (WII)	CS	10.00	12.00	11.00	11.00
National Zoological Parks	CS	1.00	1.55	1.00	1.50
Project Tiger	CSS	32.00	35.45	65.00	65.40
Bio-diversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project EAP	CS	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.47
Project Elephant	CSS	15.59	15.59	17.00	17.00
Central Zoo Authority (CZA)	CS	17.00	20.63	17.00	20.00
Total Forests & Wildlife		316.39	315.42	371.61	380.39